

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0363

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: EASTERN REMARKS ON DATA

1. BELOW ARE STATEMENTS MADE BY POLISH REP CONCERNING EASTERN DATA IN INFORMAL SESSION OF JULY 6. GIVEN THE UNEQUIVOCAL NATURE OF THIS REPEATED EASTERN REFUSAL TO ANSWER FURTHER WESTERN QUESTIONS ON EASTERN DATA UNTIL THE WEST HAS TABLED ITS OWN UPDATED DATA, AND OF THE PARALLEL STATEMENT MADE BY KHLESTOV IN THE INFORMAL SESSION ON JUNE 29, WE CONSIDER THAT IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO CONTINUE TO PRESS IN A MULTILATERAL CONTEXT FOR FURTHER ANSWERS TO WESTERN QUESTIONS ON EASTERN DATA. TO DO SO WOULD ENGENDER FRICTION WITH THE EAST, ADVERSELY AFFECTING EASTERN READINESS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT EASTERN COUNTING RULES AT A LATER POINT. IT WOULD ALSO INTENSIFY FOCUS ON ALLIED FAILURE TO TABLE DATA. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROBE BILATERALLY ON THIS ISSUE AS OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS. UK REP HAS TOLD US HE BELIEVES FURTHER WESTERN QUESTIONS ABOUT EASTERN

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COUNTING RULES WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN PRESENT

CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. THE WESTERN VIEW THAT THERE IS A LARGE EASTERN SUPERIORITY IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION AREA WAS REITERATED BY WESTERN REPS IN JULY 6 INFORMAL AND IN JULY 8 PLENARY. WESTERN PRESS SPOKESMAN MADE POINT ON DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WESTERN ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT MANPOWER AND EASTERN DATA IN POST-PLENARY PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 1 (TEXT IN MBFR VIENNA 0342), SO THAT THESE ASPECTS OF THE WESTERN POSITION ARE CLEARLY ON RECORD.

3. IT IS EVIDENT THAT, TAKEN LITERALLY, POLISH REP'S REMARKS BELOW DO NOT REPEAT NOT ANSWER THE QUESTIONS POSED BY WESTERN REPS IN THE JUNE 29 INFORMAL SESSION. POLISH REP DID NOT STATE THAT THE EAST HAS INCLUDED IN ITS DATA ON WARSAW PACT FORCES ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION AREA, WHICH HE IN EFFECT IDENTIFIED AS THE CENTRAL WESTERN QUESTION ON THIS SUBJECT. HE MERELY SAID THAT THE EASTERN DATA HAD "TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ALL CATEGORIES" OF WARSAW PACT MILITARY PERSONNEL DEPLOYED IN THE AREA AND THAT THE EAST HAD "TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION" THE WESTERN POSITION ON FORCE DEFINITIONS. WE BELIEVE POLISH REP'S STATEMENT MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR EASTERN RESPONSE FOR THE EVENT THAT THE WEST DOES NOT TABLE ITS DATA DURING THE PRESENT ROUND, AND, CONSEQUENTLY, THAT THERE IS NO DISCUSSION OF COUNTING RULES, BUT THAT CRITICISMS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY MADE BY WESTERN OFFICIALS OR IN THE WESTERN PRESS ABOUT DISCREPANCIES IN THE EASTERN DATA.

BEGIN TEXT OF POLISH REP'S REMARKS:

(1) POLISH REP CONTINUED THAT EASTERN REPS HAD ALREADY QUOTED NUMEROUS STATEMENTS BY WESTERN LEADERS BY WHICH THE EXISTENCE OF A FORCE EQUILIBRIUM WAS ADMITTED. THEREFORE, THE EASTERN PROPOSAL FOR EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS BY ALL 11 DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS WAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND JUST MEANS OF REACHING THE GOALS OF THESE TALKS. EASTERN PARTICIPANTS CONTINUED TO EXPECT A SERIOUS AND POSITIVE WESTERN RESPONSE TO THE EASTERN FEBRUARY PROPOSAL WHICH, TOGETHER WITH THE DATA PRESENTED BY EASTERN PARTICIPANTS ON THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE WARSAW

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TREATY ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, MADE IT POSSIBLE TO BEGIN RIGHT NOW WITH CONCRETE WORK ON A FIRST STAGE OF REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS.

(2) POLISH REP SAID THAT, DURING THE INFORMAL SESSION ON JUNE 29, UK REP HAD SAID THAT THE WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WERE PREPARING NEW DATA ON THE NATO ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE VALID AS OF THE FIRST OF JANUARY 1976. THE EASTERN

PARTICIPANTS EXPECTED THE WESTERN COUNTRIES TO TABLE THEIR DATA ON THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE NATO FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, INCLUDING THE GROUND FORCES, VALID FOR THIS DATE. WESTERN REPS HAD ASKED EASTERN REPS A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE DATA TABLED BY THE EAST ON JUNE 10. AS EASTERN REPS HAD ALREADY INDICATED, THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO A DISCUSSION ON PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH DATA AFTER THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAD PRESENTED THEIR OWN REVISED DATA.

(3) POLISH REP SAID THAT, HOWEVER, HE WISHED TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL REMARK. AS FOLLOWED FROM THE QUESTIONS THEY HAD ASKED, THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THE NUMERICAL FIGURES FOR THE WARSAW TREATY ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE INCLUDED ALL THE MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THESE STATES IN THE AREA CONCERNED. IN THIS CONNECTION HE WISHED TO RECALL WHAT HAD BEEN SAID BY THE SOVIET REP IN THE JUNE 10 PLENARY MEETING, NAMELY, THAT THE DATA PRESENTED ON THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE WARSAW TREATY ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE TOOK INTO ACCOUNT ALL CATEGORIES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL DEPLOYED IN THE AREA, WHICH MEANT THAT, ON THIS ISSUE, THE EASTERN PARTICIPANTS HAD TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THE POSITION OF THE WESTERN STATES PRESENTED DURING THE DISCUSSIONS ON DEFINITIONS OF ARMED FORCES.

(4) POLISH REP SAID THAT IF WHAT HE HAD JUST SAID SHOULD RESULT IN ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FROM WESTERN REPS, HE WOULD MERELY HAVE TO REPEAT ONCE AGAIN THAT EASTERN PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE READY TO ENTER ON DISCUSSION OF DATA ONLY AFTER THE NEW WESTERN FIGURES HAD BEEN PRESENTED.

END TEXT.RESOR

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